Applicants:

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Please amend claims 4, 6 and 14 as follows. A marked up version of amended claims 4, 6 and 14, wherein the deleted material is in brackets and the inserted material is underlined, is attached hereto as **Exhibit A**.

- --4. (2x amended) A pharmaceutical composition which comprises an effective amount of the agent of claim 15 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.
- --6. (2x amended) An expression vector encoding the polypeptide of claim 15.--
- --14. (2x amended) A method of producing the agent of claim 15 which comprises growing the host vector system of claim 6 under suitable conditions permitting production of the agent and recovering the agent so produced.--

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 4-14 are pending in this application. Claim 1 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer to applicants' right to pursue the subject matter of that claim in a subsequent application. New claim 15 has been added to the application. New claim 15 is essentially identical to claim 3 as originally filed except that the phrase "therapeutic agent" in original claim 3 has been changed to "agent" in new claim 15. Claims 4, 6 and 14 have been amended: (1) to change their dependency from claim 1, now canceled, to new claim 15, and (2) to delete the word "therapeutic"

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from the phrase "therapeutic agent", i.e., in keeping with the recitation of claim 15. Both the new claim 15, and the amendments to claims 4, 6 and 14 are all completely supported by the application as originally filed, and thus they raise no issue of new matter. Entry of new claim 15 and the claim amendments is respectfully solicited such that upon such entry claims 4-15, as amended, will be pending in this application.

If a telephone interview would be of assistance in advancing prosecution of the subject application, applicants' undersigned attorneys invite the Examiner to telephone at the number provided below.

fee is believed to be due with this Second Preliminary Amendment. Should any fee be due, authorization is hereby provided to charge the required amount to Deposit Account No. 03-3125.

Respectfully submitted,

hereby certify that correspondence is being deposited this date with the U.S. Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, D.C. and 20231

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